

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 RSC-01

OES-02 H-01 L-02 OIC-02 AEC-05 AECE-00 SP-02 AID-05

EB-04 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 AGR-05 COME-00 SWF-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8158

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WFC, EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF  
FOLLOW-UP INSTITUTIONS, WEDNESDAY, NOV 13, 1974.

REF: ROME 15771

SUMMARY: CONTACT GROUP AND GROUP B MEETINGS WERE HELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ON FOLLOW-UP INSTITUTIONS. IT BECAME READILY APPARENT THAT DRAFT PRESENTED AS G-77 DRAFT DID NOT IN FACT HAVE G-77 SUPPORT. NIGERIA OPENED CONTACT GROUP MEETING BY PROPOSING MERE STRENGTHENING OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN CREATING NEW INSTITUTION. UNITED STATES CANDIDLY SUMMARIZED ALL FOUR DRAFTS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN GROUP B. ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN CANDIDLY DESCRIBED G-77 SITUATION: AFRICAN, ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN GROUPS HAD NOT DISCUSSED PROPOSAL SUBMITTED FOR G-77, BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTERPRETING SERVICE. CHAIRMAN ASKED SOVIET ATTITUDE ON ECOSOC ROLE, MENTIONED IN TWO GROUP-B DRAFTS AND FAVORED BY UNITED KINGDOM, AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE SAID THEY HAD THOUGHT OF THIS THEMSELVES ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED UPON BY SOCIALIST BLOC. SUBSEQUENT

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GROUP B MEETING WAS UNABLE DEVELOP CONSENSUS, AND IT WAS FINALLY

AGREED TO PRESENT ALL DRAFTS TO CONTACT GROUP MEETING THURSDAY.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN OF CONTACT GROUP ON FOLLOW-UP INSTITUTIONS  
POSTPONED MEETING FROM WEDNESDAY MORNING UNTIL 3:00 PM WEDNESDAY  
AFTERNOON. NIGERIA SPOKE FIRST, AND STRONGLY URGED FOLLOW-UP  
INSTITUTIONS BASED ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, IN SHARP  
CONTRADICTION TO ALGERIAN DRAFT ALLEGED TO HAVE G-77 SUPPORT NIGERIA  
ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NOT TIME TO CREATE A NEW ORGANIZATION, AND  
THAT FAO CONF WAS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL BODY AND COULD BE  
RESHAPED INTO QUOTE CHAPEAU UNQUOTE.

2. UNITED STATES ASKED WHETHER MEXICO AND INDIA WERE WITHDRAWING  
THEIR FOLLOW-UP PROPOSALS IN FAVOR OF G-77 DRAFT, SO THAT WE MIGHT  
KNOW HOW MANY PROPOSALS NEEDED TO BE CONSIDERED. THERE WAS NOT  
IMMEDIATE ANSWER.

3. UNITED STATES NOTED PRESENCE OF LEGAL COUNSEL CONTINI IN MEETING,  
AND SUGGESTED HE TELL GROUP WHETHER FAO CONFERENCE  
CONVERTED INTO UMBRELLA COULD  
ISSUE DIRECTIVES TO OTHER UN AGENCIES AND  
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN WHAT BODY LIES AUTHORITY TO CONVERT  
ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE TIME REQUIRED. CONTINI SAID THAT WORLD FOOD  
CONF COULD RECOMMEND CHANGES, BUT COULD NOT ACTUALLY  
INSTITUTE THEM OR CONTINUE ITS OWN ACTIVITIES WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION  
BY UNGA. SOME ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNIDO, UNICEF, AND UNCTAD  
ARE CREATURES OF UNGA, AND UNGA CAN READILY CHANGE THEIR RELATION-  
SHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. FAO, HOWEVER, WAS CREATED BY  
TREATY, EMBODYING CONSTITUTION OF FAO, AND ITS ACTIVITIES COULD BE  
ALTERED ONLY BY LENGTHY PROCESS OF NEW TREATY, OR BY PROCESS OF  
AMENDING CONSTITUTION.

4. UNITED KINGDOM ASKED NIGERIA WHY IT CHOSE LARGE (133 MEMBER)  
FAO CONFERENCE AS TOP INSTITUTION RATHER THAN SMALLER (42 MEMBER)  
COUNCIL. NIGERIA REPLIED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE COUNCIL WAS  
SUBORDINATE TO CONFERENCE'S AUTHORITY.

5. NIGERIA ARGUED THAT FAO CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL HAD ORIGINALLY  
BEEN INTENDED TO FULFILL FUNCTIONS NOW CONTEMPLATED FOR NEW CHAPEAU  
INSTITUTION. ALGERIA REPLIED AT LENGTH THAT UNGA HAD CALLED FOR  
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WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RATHER THAN TURNING TO FAO, RECOGNIZING  
SERIOUSNESS AND COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEM AND INVOLVEMENT OF MANY  
ORGANIZATIONS. ALTHOUGH SOME DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES  
WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN WITH STATUS QUO, GP-77 DRAFT SHOULD BE  
CONSIDERED BECAUSE IT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO MAJORITY.

6. UNITED STATES THEN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE FOUR  
DRAFTS BEING CONSIDERED BY GROUP B, ON WHICH NO DECISION HAD BEEN

REACHED: A) ONE WHICH LIKE NIGERIA'S AND FAO DIRECTOR BOERMA'S PROPOSALS WOULD BASICALLY RELY ON REORGANIZED FAO STRUCTURES; B) ANOTHER WHICH COULD BE DESCRIBED AS MODIFICATION OF ALGERIAN PROPOSAL OF NEW WORLD FOOD COUNCIL; C) ANOTHER THAT WOULD USE ECOSOC AND AN ORGANIZATION SIMILAR TO COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND D) ANOTHER (U.S.) CALLING FOR ECOSOC TO CONSULT WITH THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN RESHAPING STRUCTURE.

7. CHAIRMAN RESPONDED HE CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO DEFINE STATUS OF G-77 CONSIDERATION. ALTHOUGH DRAFT BEFORE CONTACT GROUP HAD GENERAL G-77 SUPPORT, ASIAN, AFRICAN, AND LATIN AMERICAN GROUPS HAD NOT DISCUSSED IT, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTERPRETING FACILITIES FOR GROUP MEETINGS AT THIS STAGE OF CONFERENCE. MEETINGS WERE SCHEDULED BY THESE GROUPS FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING AND THURSDAY MORNING. NEW CONTACT GROUP MEETING WAS SET FOR 10:30 AM THURSDAY, WITH DEADLINE OF NOON THURSDAY FOR AGREEMENT.

8. CHAIRMAN ASKED FOR COMPLETE EXPRESSION OF VIEWS BY ALL BEFORE ADJOURNING. BANGLADESH EXPRESSED ENCOURAGEMENT BY DRAFTS BEING CONSIDERED BY GROUP B. UNITED KINGDOM SPOKE IN FAVOR OF ECOSOC ROLE. CHAIRMAN ASKED SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT VIEWS ON ECOSOC, AND SOVIET REPLIED THEY TOO HAD THOUGHT OF ECOSOC ROLE, ALTHOUGH THIS HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED UPON YET BY SOCIALIST GROUP.

9. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF GROUP B, UNITED KINGDOM SUMMARIZED CONTACT GROUP MEETING. FRANCE COMMENTED THAT INDECISION OF G-77 WOULD LEAVE WAY OPEN FOR US TO MAKE MODEST PROPOSAL. CHAIRMAN SAID G-77 DISARRAY LEFT FIELD WIDE OPEN. GERMAN<sup>6</sup>, NETHERLANDS, AND BELGIUM FAVORED SIMPLY STRENGTHENING EXISTING FAO ORGANIZATIONS. NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND SWITZERLAND CONTENDED NEW INSTITUTIONS WERE NECESSARY. UNITED STATES SAW CANADIAN OR AUSTRALIA DRAFT AS HAVING BEST CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE, WITH US DRAFT AS FALL-BACK POSITION, AND CONSIDERED SIMPLY RESTRUCTURING FAO A MOVE THAT WOULD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE CONVINCING TO LDC'S AND WORLD OPINION.

10 CHAIRMAN ATTEMPTED REPEATEDLY WITHOUT SUCCESS TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS. US THEN SUGGESTED SIMPLY PRESENTING THREE DRAFTS TO CONTACT GROUP MEETING AND TEST REACTION. THIS WAS AGREED. IT WAS ANTICIPATED G-77 ALSO WILL NOT BE AGREED ON ANY SINGLE DRAFT. ALL AGREED THAT CONSENSUS UNLIKELY HERE AND THAT IN THAT CASE US PROPOSAL BEST OUT. ANOTHER GROUP B MEETING IS TO BE HELD AT 9:00 AM THURSDAY, BEFORE CONTACT GROUP MEETING AT 10:30 AM. VOLPE

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